

all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

POM-209. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to urging the Congress of the United States and the Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill the department's goal of providing excellence in patient care by building a veterans hospital in Weslaco, Texas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 138

Whereas, Our veterans who live in South Texas have served their country bravely and risked their lives to preserve our country's freedom and democracy, and their sacrifices in our behalf are deserving of a veterans hospital to meet their health care needs; and

Whereas, Regrettably, South Texas currently lacks adequate health care resources for these proud men and women; the sole outpatient clinic in the eight-county area at the southern tip of Texas has limited hours of operation and must refer patients to other facilities for special tests or treatments; in addition, the nearest veterans hospital to the region with inpatient acute medical and surgical care and extended care is more than 250 miles away in San Antonio; and

Whereas, Veterans in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties alone number greater than 46,000, and a May 2004 report by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) acknowledged the need for improved and expanded medical facilities for veterans in South Texas; and

Whereas, Despite this assessment, however, the DVA has planned only the addition of 10 contract beds in Harlingen's Valley Baptist Medical Center; and

Whereas, Weslaco is located in the center of the Rio Grande Valley, less than one hour's drive from McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville, making it a convenient site for a hospital to serve the area's veterans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas respectfully urge the Congress of the United States and the Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill the department's goal of providing excellence in patient care by building a veterans hospital in Weslaco, Texas, to serve the more than 46,000 veterans in South Texas who have bravely defended and served our country; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, to the secretary of veterans affairs, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-210. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to rejecting provisions in the President's proposed federal budget that would result in the loss of funding for Veterans' Memorial Homes in New Jersey; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 263

Whereas, The President's proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2006 contains reduc-

tions to veterans' programs that would result in the loss of funding for the Veterans' Memorial Homes in this State; and

Whereas, The proposed budgetary reductions would hinder this State's ability to operate its three Veterans' Memorial Homes and may result in the closure of one or more of the homes if an alternate funding source is not provided; and

Whereas, The three Homes currently have a resident population of 812 veterans and the funding reductions contained in the President's budget would [cut that population] *reduce the number of veterans eligible for federal funding to 159 [residents]; and*

Whereas, Under the President's proposed budget, the Veterans' Memorial Homes would not meet the criteria for *retaining* federal matching funds [for] *invested in* construction, thereby requiring the State to reimburse the federal government for construction costs totaling approximately \$53.3 million; and

Whereas, The proposed reductions to veterans' programs contained in the President's budget would negatively impact New Jersey's ability to care for its veterans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges Congress to reject provisions in the President's proposed federal budget that would result in the loss of funding for Veterans' Memorial Homes in this State.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, every member of this State's Congressional delegation and the Governor.

POM-211. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico relative to the rejection of imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1855. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1856. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1857. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1858. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; considered and passed.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. TALENT):

S. 1859. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for a Federal Fuels List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1860. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve energy production and reduce energy demand through improved use

of reclaimed waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1861. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the phaseout of personal exemptions and the overall limitation on itemized deductions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1862. A bill to establish a joint energy cooperation program within the Department of Energy to fund eligible ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons in the national interest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1863. A bill to establish the Gulf Coast Recovery and Disaster Preparedness Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1864. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1865. A bill to establish the SouthEast Crescent Authority and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1866. A bill to establish an Under Secretary for Policy in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 1867. A bill to extend to individuals evacuated from their residences as a result of Hurricane Katrina the right to use the absentee balloting and registration procedures available to military and overseas voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 1868. A bill to ensure gasoline affordability and security to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. WARNER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BURNS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Res. 271. A resolution designating the week beginning October 16, 2005, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA,